

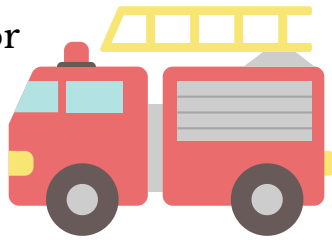
COVNA

Castlewood - Oak Valley Neighborhood Association



Note from the President

Are you ready for National Night Out? Queue the fire truck lights!



It's a little hard to believe it's already mid-September! The kids are back in school, temperatures are *finally* starting to break, and the leaves in our beautiful neighborhood are beginning to fall to the ground. I hope each of you had a wonderful summer season full of fun and relaxation. Come join COVNA as we kick off the fall season with our annual National Night Out event. I'm so happy to have our Oak Valley neighbors on Shelby Oak host this year - thank you!

It will be a night of reconnecting with neighbors you know and striking up a conversation with those you don't. If you and I haven't yet spoken, please find me to say hello, I'd love to know you! See you soon!

~ Michelle

COVNA Executive Board

President: Michelle Hendrix (Comburg Castle)

Vice President: Matt Janiga (Queenswood)

Treasurer: Ron Mattison (Queenswood)

Secretary: Denise Sample (Comburg Castle)

Newsletter Editor: Katy Hamill (Crownspoint Dr.)

ANC Representative: Will Binford (Comburg Castle)

Immediate Past Pres: Sean McCormack (Barkwood)

Time to Become a COVNA member!

Board member elections happen at our December party. To vote in the elections, you must have paid your COVNA dues (only \$20/year!) by SEP 1.

Didn't join in time - no problem! You are still welcome at all COVNA events! Next membership drive starts in January 2023.

Humans of COVNA

Know a wonderful neighbor we should spotlight? Please email Katy at kaydeebugg@gmail.com with "Neighbor Spotlight" in the subject line and a brief summary of why you want to highlight this person. We'll do the rest!

Please see www.covna.org for the full interview with Frank de la Teja - this didn't make it up previously but it's there now!



Visit our webpage for the most up to date information about COVNA events, additional newsletter content, membership and list serve sign up, and more

www.covna.org

COVNA presents

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

a celebration of community

Tuesday October 4, 2022

Shelby Oak Lane

5:30 - 8:30p

National Night Out is upon us! As with all COVNA events, this is a chance to spend some relaxed time with neighbors and friends, new and old. Come say hello to someone you haven't officially met yet! Have some food and drinks - and definitely stick around until after dark, when the local fire department swings by for a visit. This year our neighbor on Toulouse, Nelly Ramirez, will be speaking informally with us about city efforts to address some of the safety concerns raised by the community at large. Don't miss out!

National Night Out 2022 is sponsored by COVNA neighborhood businesses ATX General Roofing and Contracting, owned by KC Leinen on Lancaster, and Castlewood Lawn Service, owned by Ken Strain on Crownspoint. Support your locally owned businesses!!



(512) 891-7663 (512) 922-1856

COVNA needs you - yes YOU!

We've grown our membership significantly this year, and have held some fantastic neighborhood events. The Board is ready to make 2023 shine even brighter and we want YOU to be a part of it! If you are a dues-paying member, current as of July 1, 2022, consider running in this year's Board elections, to be held at our holiday party Saturday Dec 10.

Seats up for election this year are **Vice President, Treasurer, and Delegate to Austin Neighborhood Council**. Contact any Board member for more info or to throw your hat in the ring.



Are you a COVNA member yet?

We've grown our membership significantly this year, to more than 25% of the households within Castlewood and Oak Valley neighborhoods! Become our next member today! Dues are pro-rated right now at \$10 for the remainder of 2022. Payable via Paypal (covna.paypal@gmail.com), at any of our events, on www.covna.org, or with the QR code to the left.

If using Paypal, please include your full name and street address in the notes section with your payment so we can update our records.

HUMANS OF COVNA: *taking nominations!*

Humans of COVNA is taking a break this issue, but don't you worry - there will be another fabulous neighbor for you to learn about in our Q4 issue. **Who's your favorite neighbor?** Nominate them to be featured in a future newsletter by emailing Katy at kaydeebugg@gmail.com.

What would you like to see more of in your neighborhood? Want volunteer opportunities? More parties? Fewer parties? Connections to local resources? More info about what's going on in our part of the city? Email your ideas to covna@freelists.org - your Board members are listening!

News from the Austin Neighborhood Council

Update on the Austin Convention Center, from COVNA ANC rep Will Binford

Pre-pandemic, Austin was unable to keep up with the growth in tourism, especially as it related to convention business. As a result, our most well-known local business, Dell, had to move their Dell World conference and convention to Las Vegas in 2017 because our center was “bursting at the seams” during the week-long gathering. The expansion is of contention as it generates hotel occupancy that generates a tax base for things like parks, museums/art (including music), historical preservation, etc. Austin has added more than 5,000 hotel rooms to better accommodate visitors for SXSW, Keller Williams Mega Camp (that hosts over 10,000 attendees), and other high attendance conventions. For a long time, Austin was a “Field of Dreams” in that “if you build it, they will come.” Not included in the room count for Austin is the meeting space available within those hotels, a point some Austinites are using to push back on the need to expand the existing facility. A presentation in February listed examples of failed expansions in other big cities like Philadelphia, that saw a decrease in room occupancy after their expansion. However, the Music Commission has voted this summer to proceed with another study to better understand the pros/cons of the projected \$1.4B expansion. I, for one, support anything that will generate a tax base that (1) residents won't be burdened with, and (2) will help generate more tourism. However, I am not certain that now is the right time for the expansion with the high cost and high interest rates associated with real estate in Austin as well as the lack of data that “they will come” again after this expansion.

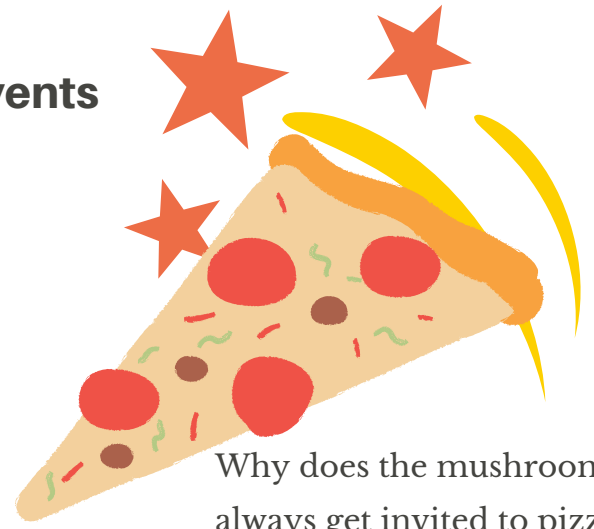
Upcoming COVNA Events

National Night Out - Tuesday October 4, 2022

Halloween Block Party - Saturday October 29, 2022

Winter Party/Elections - Saturday December 10, 2022

Please note: the nature and/or dates of events may change if needed. Bookmark our website (www.covna.org) for the latest updates, including location and time details



Why does the mushroom always get invited to pizza parties?

Because he's such a fungi!

We're Looking for Your Sponsorship!

Sponsor food and beverages for an upcoming COVNA event! We love supporting our neighborhood businesses and we'll put your business name front and center for all neighbors to see!

Contact Katy Hamill at kaydeebugg@gmail.com

COVNA would like to remind all of our neighborhood dog owners to pick up after your pet! Please do not leave poo on a neighbor's lawn, it's just un-neighborly. For the safety of your family, your dog, and your neighbors please also keep dogs on a leash and your fences in good condition. *Woof!*

Who owns that easement?

Do you have a drainage easement abutting your property? You may not know, but the draining easements in COVNA are not maintained by the city and are the responsibility of the property owner. Please do your part to cut down on mosquitoes and other critters by keeping your easement clean and free of debris. If you are unable to clean the easement yourself, contact any COVNA Board member and we'll work with you to find a solution!

COVNA Executive Board - contact info

President: Michelle Hendrix (Comburg Castle): michelle.hendrix@compass.com

Vice President: Matt Janiga (Queenswood): m.d.janiga@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ron Mattison (Queenswood): shadmatt@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Denise Sample (Comburg Castle): sample.denise@gmail.com

Newsletter: Katy Hamill (Crownspoint Dr.): kaydeebugg@gmail.com

ANC Representative: Will Binford (Comburg Castle): will.binford@gmail.com

Immediate Past President: Sean McCormack (Barkwood)